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Price List 1923-1924

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“*BETTER*”

Tomato Seed.

NOT WHAT IT
COSTS —
WHAT IT DOES.

H. P. LANGDON & SON.
CONSTABLE, N. Y.

For the man who is satisfied with seed if only it germinates well, and to whom tomatoes, early or late, are just "tomatoes", we probably have nothing of interest. Our work is for the gardener to whom earliness means real money, and productiveness of quality fruit something worth striving for.

Most men, nowadays, realize that heredity is too strong a force in the animal world to be ignored. A herd of scrub cows are always scrubs, no matter how much they are stuffed. There may be good ones in the lot, but their average will fall down when compared with that of cows bred for results.

Heredity is just as powerful a force in plant life, though this fact is not as generally realized. A field of tomatoes planted from unselected seed will grow "Chips off the old block" in spite of a whole summer's most anxious care, just as surely as scrub calves grow into scrub cows. Fruit is a little later ripening than you expect, perhaps, and the market gone, or they may be rough, or soft, or the yield low considering the care given it. You can't be sure of anything about it, except this; that the crop will not be as good as it would have been had the parents of those plants been selected, for generations back, for the qualities you most want. And it doesn't cost as much as "Blue Blood" in cows, either.

When we began growing the Earliana, twenty years ago, it had a great many faults. It was rough, often soft, cracked badly and was not a very heavy cropper. This was, however, the earliest market variety, and we selected it as a basis for breeding a strain for our own use as gardeners, for the Adirondack Hotel trade, which would be even earlier than before and with the usual faults of the Earliana bred out.

This selection was not as easy as would appear. The extra early hill was usually a shy bearer, and with too little foliage. An extra well fruited plant on light soil would probably produce a bumper crop of rough fruit on heavy rich soil. The smooth, globular type, on heavy soil, was likely to prove small under less favorable conditions.

Equally important was the solidity of the fruit. Thin cell walls are usually associated with soft fruit, so fruit of each plant in question must be cut to determine the thickness of cell wall, size of seed cells, lack of hard core and general color.

The hills that seemed nearest our ideal were staked, and the seed planted in separate plots the next summer. Naturally the plot showing the best type, (and the variation was surprising) had somewhat the best parent plant in ability to reproduce the desired qualities. By selecting the best hills in this plot we were not only choosing the best parent plants for the next season's breeding, but the best grandparents.

There is nothing mysterious or sensational about this. A definite ideal, first, based upon years of experience in growing and marketing tomatoes, and big enough to keep one from running off into side issues. Second, a very careful attention to details and a willingness to do all the work one's self in order to know that it is done right, and third, the patience to wait years for results.

We believe we have had really noteworthy results. It is not a perfect tomato, there is no such thing. Not all conditions are suited to growing Earliana. But where other strains of Earliana will do anything at all, and in many places where they utterly fail, our ADIRONDACK EARLIANA will give an EARLIER, BIGGER crop of LARGE, SMOOTH, FIRM fruit than any other strain or variety of tomato.

Our location on the Northern foothills of the Adirondacks (four miles from the Canadian line) has been an important factor in breeding for earliness. It is an established fact that plants tend to adapt themselves to their environment, that plants grown in warmer climates gradually decline in hardiness. Our summers average three and a half months free from frost, with generally cool days and many cold nights. Just about as extreme a climate as it is possible to grow tomatoes. In fact when we purchased land seven miles south toward the mountains, last summer, for breeding purposes, we found that even the earliest varieties could not be ripened on a commercial basis.

PRICE OF LANGDON'S 18 YEAR SELECTION AND LINE
BRED NORTHERN ADIRONDACK EARLIANA TOMATO SEED.

Grade No. 1— $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 25c; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 40c; 1 oz. 60c; 2 oz. \$1.20; 4 oz. \$2.00; 8 oz. \$3.60; 1 pound \$6.40.

Grade No. 2—Seed from Crown and Selected Fruit: $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 50c; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 75c; 1 oz. \$1.25. Supply limited.

Grade No. 3—Seed from our breeding fields. Best Private Stock, just such as we sow, supply limited: $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. \$1.00; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$2.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. \$3.00; 1 oz. \$5.00; 4 oz. \$18.00. No discount for less than four ounces.

This grade is from Breeding Fields, carefully selected for earliness and vigor in the parent plant and size, shape and smoothness of fruit, which is then cut and all fruit rejected that does not come up to the standard in solidity and small seed cavities. Can be supplied only when in stock; and seed of this grade cannot be bought elsewhere, for the cutting and sorting is not left to the judgment of hired help. It is done personally by the members of the firm themselves, who give you the results of their years of experience in this line.

We believe we are the only growers in the country, or the world, for that matter, of whom you can buy an extra choice grade of tomato seed selected by themselves in the same particular manner as this Grade No. 3 Adirondack Earliana.

REDHEAD, THE BEST SECOND EARLY.

Although this variety has been introduced but a few years, the demand exceeds that of any other variety, except the Adirondack Earliana. It is early, vines vigorous and productive, fruit large, well colored, firm and of good shape.

BONNY BEST. (Langdon Strain.)

Two grades, selected and extra selected. Having had a demand for an EXTRA SELECTED grade of our own strain of Bonny Best, corresponding to our Extra Selected Earliana, we have secured a limited quantity of seed of this grade from crown and second cluster fruit grown on the most vigorous, prolific plants. This selection is done by the members of the firm themselves. There can be none better. The selected grade Bonny Best, as with the other varieties, is scoured from medium to large, smooth fruits grown on good hills, discarding all small, immature or rough fruits.

BAER, JEWEL AND STONE.

These are the standard second earlies which need no description, the variety best suited to you depending largely upon your market, location and soil. We have selected grades of these and our strains are as good as the best, besides being grown in the north.

RED ROCK

Is a large, late variety, which we consider one of the best for late main crop. Very hard and a long keeper.

This is not a large list of varieties, but they are all good. We prefer growing a few of the very best kinds, lessening the possibility of crossing or of mistakes, and keeping each to its own particular type, rather than to spread over a larger list for the benefit of a few who might want them.

We have a good many inquiries about the Earliana and Bonny Best for forcing. Although we have no personal experience with them in this line they are quite extensively used, and, judging by the recommends and repeated orders, are very satisfactory. We'd advise giving them a trial.

Speaking of recommends. perhaps some readers, noticing that we are printing none, are wondering if we have any sent us. Indeed we do, some very nice ones, and we want to express our appreciation to those who wrote them. We are always interested.

PRICES.

ADIRONDACK EARLIANA, see a previous page.

	¼ oz.	½ oz.	1 oz.	2 oz.	4 oz.	8 oz.
REDHEAD (selected)	\$.50	\$.75	\$ 1.25	\$ 2.25	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00
BONNY BEST, Langdon						
strain (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
BONNY BEST, extra selected	1.00	1.50	2.50			
STONE (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
JEWEL (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
BAER (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00

We offered last season seed of the Mimms Cucumber and of Harris Earliest Sweet Pepper, as both had done very well with us and we believed them worthy of special notice. The demand for both was heavy, and we are very sorry that we have but little seed of either to offer this fall. Season was too cool to ripen many peppers, and a severe drought cut short the cuke crop. Will try again next summer, providing reports of this season show they have come up to our expectations. Price of seed, while it lasts:

MIMMS CUCUMBER—½ oz. 20c; 1 oz. 35c.

HARRIS EARLIEST SWEET PEPPER—¼ oz. 40c; ½ oz. 60c

Please order early before the rush comes; write your NAME PLAINLY, NAMING SECOND CHOICE IF ANY. Do not send postage stamps except for amounts less than \$1.00, 1c or 2c stamps preferred. We try to fill all orders by first mail. IF NOT RECEIVED PROMPTLY, NOTIFY US.

Yours for service,

H. P. LANGDON & SON.

(Maple Ridge Farm)

December, 1923.

Constable, N. Y.

